

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00

PC-01 AID-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

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P R 051201Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6639

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0205

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT, CT

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION: SITREP 2

REF: A. BANGUI 195 (NOTAL) B. BANGUI 194 (NOTAL)

1. CITY IS CALM AND PROVINCE ONLY BEGINNING TO LEARN OF EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 3. HOWEVER, THERE ARE GREATLY INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES IN FORCE. ROADBLOCKS ARE PARTICULARLY NUMEROUS AT BARRIER NEAR FORK OF NATIONAL ROADS TO CHAD AND CAMEROON AND SUPPORT ACCESS ROAD. PC DIRECTOR AND PCV ENTOURAGE RETURNED SAFELY FROM UPCOUNTRY TOURNEE THROUGH THIS CHECKPOINT EVENING OF FEBRUARY 3 UNDERGOING FOUR HOURS OF FORMALITIES BUT CIVILY TREATED THROUGHOUT.

2. BANGUI-M'POKO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REMAINS UNDER HEAVY SECURITY WRAPS BUT HAS MEANWHILE BEEN RE-OPENED. DUE TO DAMAGE FROM ENSUING FRAY, ADJOINING FREIGHT AND CUSTOMS BUILDINGS REMAIN CLOSED. VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, WACASC MONTHLY SUPPORT FLIGHT FROM LAGOS DUE BANGUI FEBRUARY 4 WAS CANCELLED AT EMBASSY REQUEST.

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3. FONMIN SENT NOTE TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS MORNING
FEBRUARY 4 CONFIRMING ORAL RECOMMENDATION OF FEBRUARY 3 (BANGUI
195) THAT DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION
AND INTERNAL SECURITY, LIMIT THEIR MOVEMENTS TO DOMICILE
AND EMBASSY AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE BANGUI CITY
LIMITS. ALL AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SO
INSTRUCTED AND ARE COMPLYING.

4. EVENTS OFFEBRUARY 4 GOCAR-CONTROLLED RADIO/TV MADE
FIRST MENTION APPROXIMATELY THIRTY HOURS AFTERWARDS, OF
THE EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 3. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN
VICTOR TETAYA IDENTIFIED ASSASSIN AS A SUB-LIEUTENANT
(ADJUTANT-CHIEF) IN THE NATIONAL ARMY AND SAID THERE
WERE FOUR OTHER ARMY OFFICERS INVOLVED IN ATTACK.
TETAYA DESCRIBED HAND GRENADE ATTACK, SUBSEQUENT SHOOT-
OUT OF ONE AND CAR CHASE OF THREE OTHER CULPRITS.
PRESIDENT

BOKASSA'S COURAGE AND COMPOSURE WERE PRAISED
TETAYA SAID BOKASSA HAD ORDERED BANGUI INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT CLOSED "FOR SAFETY OF AIRCRAFT AND TOURISTS."
IN CONCLUSION, IT WAS ADDED THAT NO ONE IN PRESIDENTIAL
PARTY WAS WOUNDED OR KILLED.

5. IN SAME BROADCAST, INFORMATION DIRECTOR GENERAL
ZEMONIAKO REFERRED TO INVOLVEMENT OF A "CERTAIN FOREIGN POWER"
NOT FURTHER DEFINED. HE ATTACKED UNIDENTIFIED "IMPERALISTS,
NEW-COLONIALISTS AND FASCHISTS."

6. VARIOUS NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING UNION OF
CENTRAL AFRICAN WOMEN, POLITICAL PARTY MESAN AND
LABOR UNION FEDERATION UGTC HAVE BEEN HOLDING DEMONSTRATIONS
OF SUPPORT FOR BOKASSA AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THROUGHOUT
FEBRUARY 4.

7. BOKASSA DEPARTED FOR BANGUI AIRPORT UNDER HEAVY
SECURITY AT 0830 MORNING OF FEBRUARY 5, TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT
MOBUTU WHO ARRIVE AT 0900 AND IS CURRENTLY WITH ZOKASSA
AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THERE WAS NO PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE VISIT AND IT IS NOT AT PRESENT KNOWN HOW LONG MOBUTU
WILL REMAIN.

SWING
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To: STATE
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